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Southwick Urban District

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1949

BY

ROBERT HEYWOOD WILSHAW,

M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

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SOUTHWICK
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

10, Bulkington Avenue,
Worthing.
June, 1950.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1949, which has been compiled in accordance with the requirements of Circular 2/50, issued by the Ministry of Health on the 25th January, 1950.

The rates for 1949 as compared with the average rates for the past ten years are as follows :—

	Average, 1939-48	1949
Birth Rate per 1,000 population ...	15.8	13.2
Death Rate, per 1,000 population ...	12.3	12.6
Corrected Death Rate, per 1,000 population	—	10.3
Infantile Mortality Rate, per 1,000 births	48	43

These rates have been calculated on the estimated resident population supplied to me for the mid-year 1949 by the Registrar General.

The Corrected Death Rate (10.3) is obtained by multiplying the uncorrected rate by the factor of correction for Southwick, viz., 0.82. The corrected death rate represents what the death rate for Southwick would be if the population contained proportionately the same number of males and females in each of the age groups as enumeration in the 1931 census revealed in England and Wales as a whole. The factor of correction being less than 1, indicates that the population of Southwick consists of a larger proportion of people at the ages at which death is more likely to occur than does the population of England and Wales as a whole.

The various mortality rates of the district during the past year as compared with the corresponding rates for England and Wales and the urban and rural districts of West Sussex are shown in a comparative table on page 4.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
Robert Heywood Wilshaw.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Southwick Urban District Council.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman :
Councillor Mrs. B. E. Newman.

Councillor H. H. Smith, J.P. (Chairman of Council).

Councillor Mrs. A. C. E. Chatterton, J.P.
,, D. M. Cannon.
,, T. J. Marsh.
,, J. McMillan.
,, W. G. Field.

STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health :
Robert Heywood Wilshaw, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :
T. A. Eardley, Cert. S.I.B., A.R.S.I.

Clerical Assistant :
F. S. Morley.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Southwick is a small urban area on the south coast, situated four miles west of Brighton.

The eastern arm of Shoreham Harbour, known locally as "The Canal," flowing eastwards, forms the southern boundary of the district. On the strip of land south of the Canal are situated the Electricity Works of the Brighton Corporation and the Works of the Brighton Gas Company. The sheltered water of the Canal is used as a harbour by sundry private yachts.

Fishing, Agriculture, a Dye Works, the Gas and Electricity undertakings referred to above and retail shop-keeping provide occupation for the majority of the inhabitants.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Acres, 1,103.

Resident Population (1949) estimated by Registrar General, 10,650.

Population (1931) Census, 6,138.

Rateable value, £91,524.

Sum represented by 1d. rate, £381.

No. of inhabited houses end of 1949 according to the Rate Books, 3,366.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live Births—	Total.	M.	F.	
Legitimate ...	131	69	62	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 13.2.
Illegitimate ...	10	6	4	
Stillbirths ...	8	4	4	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 53.7.
Deaths	134	67	67	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 12.6.

Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth:—
From sepsis—None. From other causes—None.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births, 43.

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births, 46.

Illegitimate Infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births, Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages), 28.

Deaths from Measles (all ages), None.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages), None.

Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age), None.

Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality, during the year which has received or required comment :—

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year.

Comparative Statistics, 1949.

	England and Wales.	*West Sussex Urban.*	*West Sussex Rural*	*Southwick U.D.*
Birth Rate	16.7	13.6	16.2	13.2
Death Rate	11.7	14.9	12.5	12.6
Infantile Death Rate ...	32	25	28	43
Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rate	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.5
Zymotic Death Rate ...	—	0.02	0.01	0.0
Cancer Death Rate ...	1.9	2.6	2.2	2.6
Maternal Mortality Rate, per 1,000 births ...	0.1	0.8	1.2	0.0
Scarlet Fever—Incidence Rate per 1,000 population ...	—	—	—	1.3
Diphtheria — Incidence Rate per 1,000 population ...	—	—	—	0.0
Enteric Fever — Incidence Rate per 1,000 population	—	—	—	0.0

Infantile Mortality.

The causes of death and the ages of the six children who died under one year of age, are as follows :—

CAUSE OF DEATH	Age	Sex
1. Prematurity	2 days	M.
2. Prematurity	1 day	M.
3. Prematurity	1 week	M.
4. Broncho-Pneumonia	6 months	F.
5 Prematurity	2 hours	F.
6. Broncho-Pneumonia ... ... Prematurity.	1 week	F.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

National Health Service Act, 1946.

Since the National Health Service Act came into force on July 5th, 1948, the following services are the responsibility of the Local Health Authority, which is the West Sussex County Council :—

The Care of Mothers and Young Children,
Domiciliary Midwifery,
Health Visiting,
Home Nursing,
Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care,
Home Help,
Mental Health,
Ambulance and Hospital Car Service,
Vaccination against Smallpox,
Immunisation against Diphtheria.

I.—Local Health Authority Services.

Nursing.

General District Nurses, Midwives, Health Visitors and School Nurses are employed by the County Council to serve in the area.

Clinics and Treatment Centres. Maternity and Child Welfare.

A centre is held every Thursday afternoon at the Y.M.C.A. Hut, at 2.30, under the County Council Child Welfare Scheme, the local district nurses being in charge of it, and one of the local Medical Practitioners being in attendance once a fortnight. An Ante-Natal Clinic is also held Fortnightly on Tuesday, at the Community Centre at 2.30 p.m.

Day Nurseries.

There is no day nursery in the district.

School Clinics.

No Minor Ailment Clinic is held in the district, but children attending Southwick Schools may be sent to the Shoreham-by-Sea Minor Ailment Clinic.

Eye Clinics and Speech Therapy Clinics are also held at Shoreham-by-Sea Health Centre, and Orthopædic Clinics at Lancing Health Centre.

Tuberculosis.

The West Sussex County Council's Tuberculosis Clinic, held at Southlands Hospital, is available to the residents of Southwick.

Venereal Diseases.

The West Sussex County Council have made arrangements entitling residents in the district to attend the Clinics for Venereal Diseases held at Worthing Hospital.

Ambulance Service.

Acting as agents for the County Council, the St. John Ambulance Brigade and British Red Cross Society operate the Ambulance and Hospital Car Service in the County. Calls for an ambulance are made through the doctor or nurse in attendance on the case, or through the Police.

Lists showing names and addresses of midwives, health visitors and general nurses may be seen at County Libraries, Town Halls or Offices of local District Councils, and the Public Health Department, County Hall, Chichester. Information as to the situation of clinics and times of sessions may be obtained from the same sources, or from the local midwife, health visitors or general nurse.

II.—Hospital and Specialist Services.

A comprehensive hospital and specialist service is provided by the Regional Hospital Board. Doctors can arrange whatever forms of treatment are needed for their patients in general or special hospitals, whether as in-patients or out-patients. Hospital accommodation of a private nature is available in certain circumstances subject to appropriate charges. All types of cases are thus provided for — medical, surgical, maternity, infectious diseases, and those requiring sanatorium or mental hospital treatment.

The Worthing Group Hospitals comprise Worthing, Southlands, Swandean, Littlehampton and Arundel Hospitals ; Zachary Merton Maternity Home, Rustington, and certain Convalescent Homes.

III.—General Medical and Dental Services.

Everyone is entitled as part of the arrangements for the National Health Service to General Medical Care, and dental care when this can be arranged, to receive necessary medicines and appliances, and to be supplied with glasses if necessary. Local arrangements for these services are organised through the National Health Service Executive Council for West Sussex, 63 South Street, Chichester.

Legislation in Force.

No Local Acts, Special Orders, General Adoptive Acts or Bye-laws relating to the public health have come into force during 1949.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The Public Health Staff consists of the Medical Officer (the Southwick Urban District Council is one of the Authorities comprising the West Sussex Southern United (M.O.H.) Districts), and the Sanitary Inspector (Mr. T. A. Eardley).

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever.

Fourteen cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, distributed as follows :—

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	May	July	Aug.	Nov.
1	3	1	4	1	3	1

No "return" case of Scarlet Fever occurred.

Diphtheria.

No case of Diphtheria was notified during the year.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Diphtheria Immunisation has again been carried out during the year by the County Council. At the end of the year the position was as follows :—

	Estimated population mid-year 1949	Total number of children immunised
Under 5 years of age	818	360
5-14 years of age ...	1,328	935

In addition, 89 children received a third reinforcing dose during the year.

Food Poisoning.

No case of food poisoning was notified during the year.

Laboratory Work.

No use was made during the year of the facilities available for the examination of pathological specimens.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

	Total Cases notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	14	9	0
Pneumonia	8	—	4
Measles	47	—	0
Whooping Cough ...	22	—	0
Erysipelas	2	—	0

One person admitted from Southwick to Southlands Hospital, Shoreham-by-Sea, was notified in the Shoreham Area as suffering from Puerperal Pyrexia.

NOTE.—The ages of the cases notified were as follows :—

	Under 1 Year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	Over 65
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	2	2	6	2	1	—	1	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	3	2
Measles ...	1	3	6	7	6	20	2	2	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	2	7	3	—	9	—	—	1	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—

Scabies.

No case of Scabies was brought to the notice of the Health Department.

TUBERCULOSIS.—New Cases and Mortality.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
35	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	7	2	1	—	5	—	—	—

No case died which had not been notified during life.

PUBLIC HEALTH (Prevention of Tuberculosis) REGULATIONS

It has not been necessary to serve any notice under these Regulations which prevent persons suffering from Tuberculosis taking part in the production of milk.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 172.

No action has had to be taken by the Council under this section, which gives power to Sanitary Authorities to apply in special cases for a magistrate's order for the removal of Tuberculous persons to an Institution for isolation.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

There is an abundant and constant supply of pure water from the Brighton Corporation. All dwelling-houses have a piped supply laid on. There are no stand-pipes in the area.

The water is not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

Two samples of water were sent for chemical and bacteriological examination during the year and the results were satisfactory.

Extensions of mains during the year :—

Ridgeway Estate	...	441 yards	4″ mains.
Milton Drive	...	80 yards	4″ mains.
The Crescent	...	217 yards	4″ mains.

Sewers.

No extensions of existing sewers were made during the year.

Pollution of Rivers and Streams.

It has not been necessary to take any action to check the pollution of rivers or streams.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

I am indebted to the Sanitary Inspector for the following information :—

(*a*) **Milk Supply. Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.**

No. of Dairymen (Cowkeepers and Milksellers), etc....	5
No. of these registered as Wholesalers only	0
No. of these registered as Retailers only	4
No. of these registered as both Wholesalers and Retailers	1
No. of Inspections made :—	
(1) Cowsheds	4
(2) Milkshops	12
No. of Inspections during milking time	1
No. of contraventions of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926	0

Water Supply to Dairy Premises.

All the above premises are supplied from the public water mains.

Licences.

Licences granted by the County Council.	
To produce Accredited Milk	1
Licences granted by the Local Authority.	
To pasteurise milk	1
To retail milk using the designation—	
(a) Tuberculin Tested Milk	5
(b) Accredited	0
(c) Pasteurised	5

Bacteriological Examination.

	No. of Samples taken by County Council.	No. of Samples taken by Local Authority.	No. complying with Standard.	No. failing to comply with Standard.
Accredited	3	—	2	1
Pasteurised	30	8	27	11

(*b*) **Meat.**

No. of inspections of Butchers' Shops	70
Meat found unfit for human consumption ...	72½lbs.

There are no slaughter houses in the district.

(*c*) **Ice Cream.**

No. of places of manufacture in the district 2

The premises are kept under observation and conditions generally are satisfactory.

(*d*) **Other Foods.**

Other Foods have been kept under observation throughout the year and a number of parcels of foodstuffs, found to be unfit for human consumption, were voluntarily surrendered.

(*e*) **Shell Fish.**

There are no shell fish or layings in the district.

HOUSING STATISTICS, 1949.

During the year the Local Authority erected 46 permanent houses.

Ten houses were erected by private enterprise.

1.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year :—

(1)	(*a*) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	142
	(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose	253
(2)	(*a*) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	Nil
	(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	8
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	134

2.—Remedying of defects during the year without service of formal notice :—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 103

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

No action was taken under Statutory Powers during the year.

4.—Housing Act, 1935—Overcrowding :—

(*a*)	i.	No. of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year (estimated)	Nil
	ii.	No. of families dwelling therein (estimated)	—
	iii.	No. of persons dwelling therein (estimated)	—
(*b*)		No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil
(*c*)	i.	No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	10
	ii.	No. of persons concerned in such cases ...	47
(*d*)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	None

National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 47.

It was not found necessary to take any action under the above Section during the year.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Two Council houses and three non-Council houses were found to be infested with bed bugs and disinfested by the Council by the use of sulphur dioxide, thermatox and spraying with Roxem. No house has been disinfested by hydrogen cyanide. The furniture of prospective tenants of Council houses is inspected by the Sanitary Inspector and disinfested if necessary.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1.—Inspections.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	33	52	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities	13	21	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	46	73	2	—

2.—Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary conveniences :— Insufficient	2	2	—	2	—
Other offences ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	2	2	—	2	—

There are 16 Outworkers in the district.

Schools.

There are three Primary Schools and one Secondary School in the District. All have the Public water supply and water closet sanitation.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act.

All complaints of Rat and Mice infestation received during the year have been investigated. The Council employ a part-time Rodent Operator who has dealt with infestations both on private and industrial premises. No charge has been made. Treatment used in infestations was that recommended by the Ministry of Food, the P.3 trap, together with poison bait.

Mosquitoes.

No complaints have been received in respect of mosquitoes.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928.

No. of premises in the district on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold	2
No. of inspections made	6
No. requiring action to be taken	None.

Camping Sites.

No. of sites in the area which were used for camping purposes during the year	Nil.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths or pools in the district.

Shops Act, 1934.

No. of shops in the district	154
No. of inspections	230
No. of defects found :—	
(*a*) Ventilation	0
(*b*) Warming	0
(*c*) Sanitary defects	2

All the defects were remedied.

No applications were made under Section 10(6) for exemption.

Smoke Abatement.

No. of observations made	22
No. of notices served	0

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK AND IMPROVEMENTS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING ACTS.

No. of inspections in regard to Infectious Disease ...	78
No. of premises disinfected after Infectious Disease ...	35
No. of verminous premises disinfested	5
No. of Nuisances found to exist	10
No. of Nuisances abated	10

Summary.

Total No. of inspections made for all purposes	984
Total No.of Notices served :—	
Informal	86
Statutory	1
Total No. of summonses issued	0
Total No. of convictions obtained	0
Complaints received	72
Complaints found justified and dealt with	64